

Spring 2009

Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter - Spring 2009

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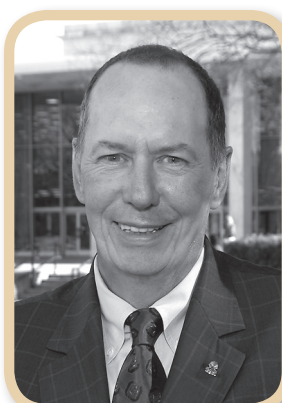
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The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter

SPRING 2009

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COLUMBIA, SC

MCNALLY NAMED DEAN OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



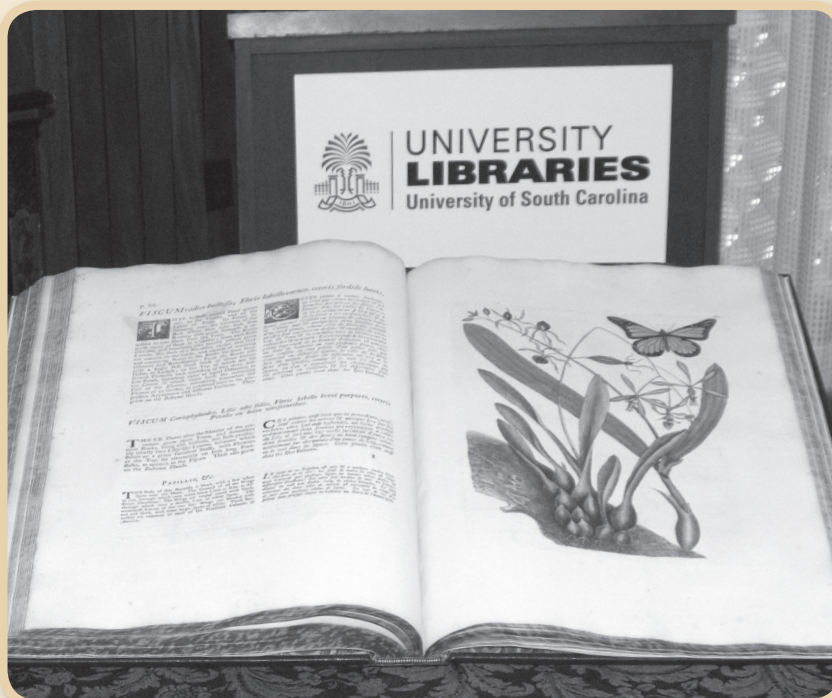
Thomas F. McNally was named dean of Libraries at the University of South Carolina's Columbia campus on March 1. McNally had served the libraries as interim dean since July 1, 2007, and as director of Thomas Cooper Library from 1991 to 2007.

Tom McNally

During his nearly 19 years as an administrator with the libraries, McNally has been instrumental in providing innovative library services to the University community, moving the libraries into the area of electronic resources and services, developing statewide partnerships, and negotiating statewide database contracts.

Commenting on the University Libraries and his plans for the future McNally said, "I am honored and humbled to follow in the footsteps of so many individuals who have done so much for our University.

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UNIVERSITY RECEIVES NEW TREASURE

Shown is one of two volumes from the first edition of Mark Catesby's *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* given to the University by Susan Gibbes Robinson. See pages 4 and 5 for more information.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN:

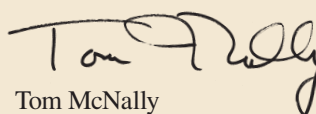
It is a great pleasure to write to all of my friends in the Thomas Cooper Society as your dean of libraries. My first action as a member of the Cooper Society was to make remarks at the opening of the Dr. Warren Irvin Darwiniana Collection that was on loan to the library. I was petrified that I could not pronounce "Darwiniana" in public! Dr. Irvin and David Rembert helped me through it.

That was my first meeting with the Irvin family. As you know, Dr. Irvin's collection is now one of our most important treasures. Wilmot Irvin is president of our Ex Libris Society, and his brother, Warren, will be president of the Cooper Society in 2011. When we say our library is a family affair, we really mean it!

Over the years, I have been to more Thomas Cooper Society receptions, lunches, dinners, and other events

than I can possibly remember. What I do remember is the enduring generosity and support of the society for the University Libraries. This year alone, the society has sponsored one-half dozen events.

When I came to the University of South Carolina, the Thomas Cooper Society had just been established. I have never known the library without a Thomas Cooper Society, and I cannot imagine what life would be like without it. One thing I know for sure, I would not have nearly as much fun being dean if I did not know that there was another Cooper event just around the corner!


Tom McNally

McNally, continued from page 1

"The library plays a key role in the process of teaching, learning, and research. We must continue to build and conserve our collections. We must work every day to develop services that keep pace with the technologies that our users are employing. We must remodel our libraries to reflect the changes in the ways our students learn and interact with one another. Each librarian we recruit must be a leader capable of creating initiatives and moving them into daily practice.

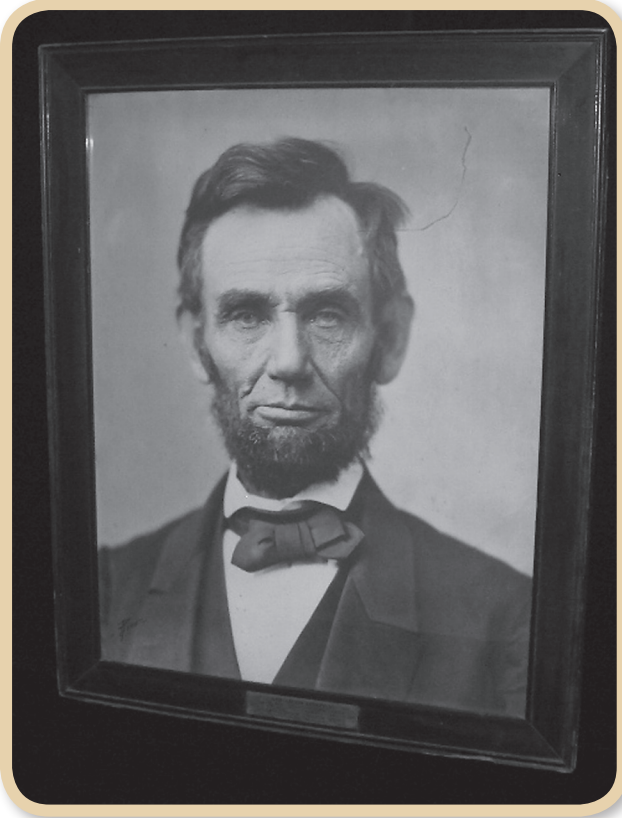
"This is a time of transformation in our libraries. It is a process that will be continuous from this point forward. We

must establish a momentum for change and continue to press on into the future."

McNally holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Kent State University and a Master of Library Science from the University of Washington. Before coming to the University, McNally held librarian positions at Loyola University of Chicago, Ohio State University, and the University of Michigan. McNally served for many years as a national instructor for the Association of College and Research Libraries in time management and video production.



Thomas Cooper Library was the site for the opening gala of the South Carolina Humanities Book Festival in March. During the event, Mr. and Mrs. Rhett Jackson, shown here, right to left, with University President Harris Pastides, were honored, along with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Graves for the Happy Bookseller's many years of support of the festival. Mr. Jackson is a past president of the Thomas Cooper Society.



“LINCOLN AND HIS LEGACY: A BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION”

“Lincoln and His Legacy: A Bicentennial Exhibition” was on display in the Thomas Cooper Library during the spring semester.

This exhibit traced Abraham Lincoln’s life and times using original source materials from the Francis Lord Civil War Collection, the Joel Myerson Collection of 19th Century American Literature, and the Joseph M. Bruccoli Great War Collection as well as from gifts provided by Professors G. Ross Roy and Robert D. Ochs.

According to the exhibit’s curator, Jeffrey Makala, “As another Illinois lawyer has now assumed the presidency, new connections to Lincoln continue to be drawn. No one exhibition can encompass all popular and scholarly thought on Abraham Lincoln, but we offered some original documents from our collections to mark the bicentennial of his birth.”

Shown is an 1864 portrait of Abraham Lincoln by Matthew Brady. The large format print made in 1891 from the original negative was a gift of G. Ross Roy.

NEW GIFTS: AFRICAN BIRDS AND SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN WRITINGS

Professor John Kenneth Adams has given the University a group of 43 original engravings of African birds from Francois Levaillant’s *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d’Afrique* (Paris, 1799–1808).

Adams purchased the engravings several years ago in Paris, still in the original binding put on by their first owner, a British barrister. Seeing the recent announcement about the Gibbes-Robinson Catesby, he decided his bird engravings should also go to the library. They are some of the most important ornithological illustrations between Catesby and Audubon. They were produced by a distinctive process, stipple-engraving, one of the first processes in which the color was printed rather than added afterward by hand. Levaillant, a French explorer, went on to publish several other major series of bird illustrations.

The antebellum South Carolina College library owned Levaillant’s prose accounts of his travels in

Southern Africa, still in Rare Books and Special Collections, but until Adams’ gift, the library had no examples of his ornithological works.

The late Professor Charles B. Weasmer donated his collection of Secession Presbyterian writings to Rare Books and Special Collections. Ebenezer Erskine and others who separated from the Established Church of Scotland in the 1730s were an important influence in North America, both in the mid-18th-century religious awakening and in emerging ideas about the separation of church and state.

Weasmer began collecting in 2003 for the bicentenary of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian synod, the major modern American heir to the early Scottish seceders. The Weasmer Collection has more than 200 books and pamphlets from the 18th and early-19th centuries, many held by very few other North American libraries.

UNIVERSITY RECEIVES GIFT OF RARE CATESBY TITLE

A reception held at Thomas Cooper Library in March celebrated the donation of a first edition of Mark Catesby's *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* to the University from Susan Gibbes Robinson. Addressing an enthusiastic audience of friends, family members, and library supporters, Robinson said, "I enjoyed having these beautiful books in my home growing up. I love Catesby and I love the University of South Carolina, so I am very happy to be able to place these wonderful books where many students will be able to enjoy them also."

While both the Thomas Cooper Library and the South Caroliniana Library own later editions of Mark Catesby's work, neither library previously owned a first edition published in London in parts between 1731 and 1743. According to Patrick Scott, head of the libraries' Rare Books and Special Collections, "This gift is especially important because it completes our collection of Catesbys and is a major enhancement of our significant holdings in natural history, such as the complete original double-elephant folio of John James Audubon's *Birds of America* (1827–1837), which the state legislature purchased for South Carolina College via subscription from the artist; Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology*; and the first edition of the Audubon-Bachman *Quadrupeds of North America*. These books, once purchased as scientific works, are now highly prized among collectors as works of art. The value of this new gift may be appreciated in light of the fact that fewer than 30 copies of the first edition are recorded in libraries in North America, and no others are recorded in South Carolina libraries."

Robinson inherited the Gibbes-Robinson Catesby books from her father, Dr. James Heyward Gibbes, a 1908 graduate of the University. Both Robinson's father and her late husband, David Robinson, were strong supporters of the University during their lifetimes. In addition, Dr. Gibbes served as president of the University South Caroliniana Society from 1944 until 1953.

Catesby's *Natural History* was the first and most detailed natural history of any colony, and it is a landmark in natural history illustration. Its 220 hand-colored copperplate engravings, especially the engravings of birds and plants,



Mrs. Susan Robinson and Dr. Patrick Scott turn pages of the Gibbes-Robinson Catesby for an appreciative audience at the donation celebration.

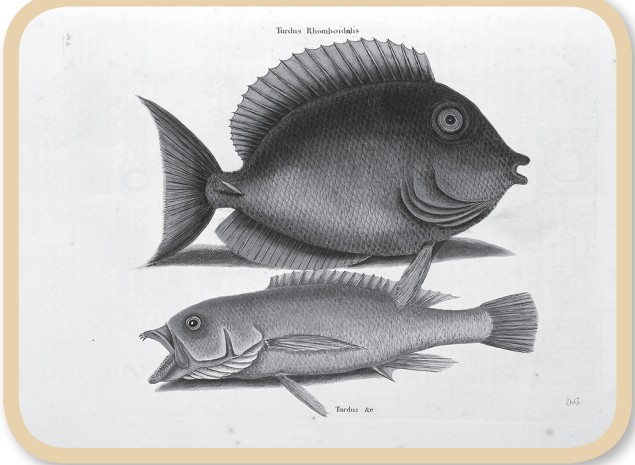
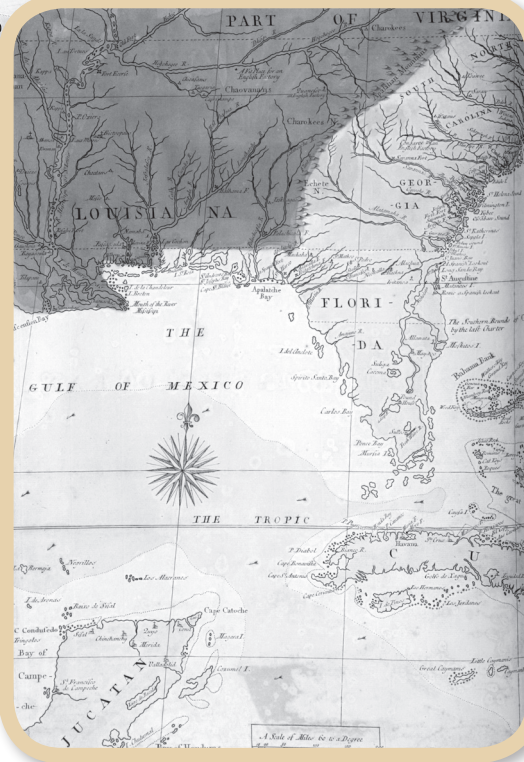
remained unsurpassed in quality and detail for more than 100 years. Catesby not only drew most of the original illustrations, but taught himself to do the engraving. For the first edition, he closely controlled the hand coloring of the illustrations, undertaking some of the work himself.

The complete title of the work is *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands: Containing the Figures of Birds, Beasts, Fishes, Serpents, Insects, and Plants: Particularly, the Forest-Trees, Shrubs, and other Plants, not hitherto described, or very incorrectly figured by Authors. Together with their Descriptions in English and French. To which are added Observations on the Air, Soil, and Water: With Remarks Upon Agriculture, Grain, Pulse, Roots, etc. To the Whole, Is Prefixed a new and correct Map of the Countries Treated of. By Mark Catesby, F.R.S.*

The Gibbes-Robinson Catesby is bound in two volumes, with all 220 engraved plates present, as well as Catesby's introduction, a foldout map, the final appendix, and other special items. Catesby's explanatory text for each of the illustrations is printed in both English and French, in parallel columns. The two volumes were professionally conserved and rebound in full calf several years ago by one of the leading book conservators in the country, Etherington Conservation in North Carolina.



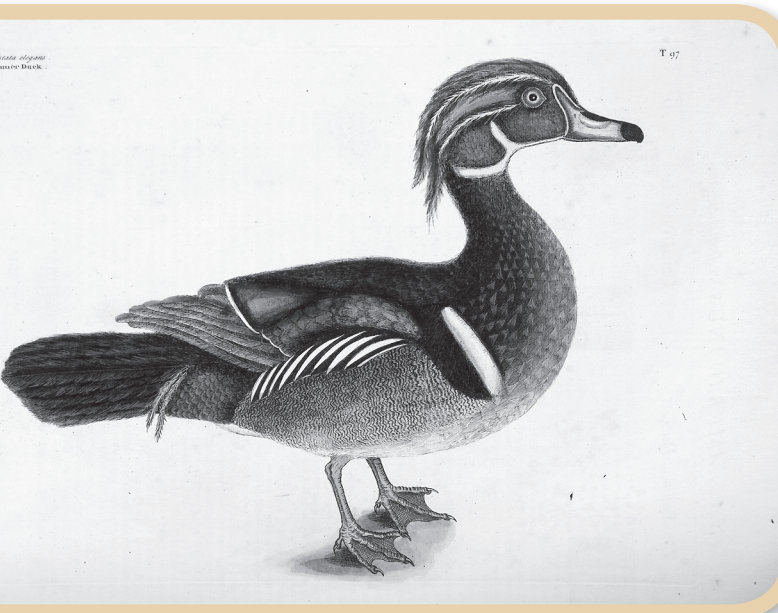
“A Map of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands with the Adjacent Parts” from the Gibbs-Robinson Catesby, donated by Susan Gibbs Robinson from the books of Dr. J. Heyward Gibbs



“The Tang” and “The Yellow Fish” from the Gibbs-Robinson Catesby, donated by Susan Gibbs Robinson from the books of Dr. J. Heyward Gibbs



(above) “Largest White Billed Woodpecker” and “Willow Oak” from the Gibbs-Robinson Catesby, donated by Susan Gibbs Robinson from the books of Dr. J. Heyward Gibbs



(left) “The Summer Duck” from the Gibbs-Robinson Catesby, donated by Susan Gibbs Robinson from the books of Dr. J. Heyward Gibbs

“ROBERT BURNS AT 250, AN EXHIBITION FROM THE G. ROSS ROY COLLECTION”

“Robert Burns at 250, An Exhibition from the G. Ross Roy Collection” will be on exhibit in the Thomas Cooper Library Mezzanine Exhibit Area until July 4.

Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish poet and songwriter Robert Burns (1759–1796), the exhibit features original manuscripts and letters, rare books (including inscribed copies), contemporary magazines and newspapers, and other material from the library’s G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns and Scottish Poetry. According to curator Patrick Scott, the exhibit was designed to chart Burns’ life, reading, and achievement as a writer from the extraordinary acclaim that followed the appearance of his first book, *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, published in the small town of Kilmarnock in 1786, through his early death in Dumfries at only 37 years of age.

Highlights of the exhibition include: Burns’ wooden porridge bowl and horn spoon; a copy of the first edition of Burns’ first book (1786); copies of his second collection (Edinburgh 1787), including one in original binding and one annotated by the poet; books that Burns owned; autograph manuscripts of three songs by Burns; books that he owned and that influenced him; autograph letters between Burns and “Clarinda,” with the silhouette cameo of Clarinda that Burns promised to wear next to his heart; the original editions in which his Scottish songs were published, including “Auld Lang Syne,” “My Love Is Like a Red, Red, Rose,” and “Scots, Wha Hae wi’ Wallace Bled.”

An associated exhibit in the library’s Graniteville Room showcases selected items by and about Robert Burns over the two centuries since the poet’s death to illustrate the influence of his work.

The range of material in the Roy Collection is recorded in Elizabeth Sudduth’s *The G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns: An Illustrated Catalogue* (University of South Carolina Press, 2009).

The Roy Collection, the largest and most comprehensive collection of works by and about Burns outside the United Kingdom, began in the 1890s with a gift to Ross Roy’s grandfather, W. Ormiston Roy, from his future wife. Since he inherited the collection in 1959, Dr. Roy has increased it more than sixfold, adding both manuscripts and rare editions, including a Kilmarnock edition. The Robert Burns collection forms part of the much larger collection of Scottish poetry and other literature that Roy transferred to the library in 1989. In January 2008, Dr. and Mrs. Roy donated a significant additional collection of Robert Burns manuscripts, which are included in this exhibit.

Portrait of Robert Burns by Alasdair Gray from the original artwork for the cover of *Studies in Scottish Literature*, Vol. 30



Patrick Scott (left) interviews Professor G. Ross Roy about the University’s G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns, Burnsiana, and Scottish Literature and about his more than 50 years of Burns scholarship. The interview was televised at a Burns conference at the University of Glasgow in January. (Photo by Phil Sawyer)



Shown at the exhibit opening for “Robert Burns at 250” are Professor G. Ross Roy and the Thomas Cooper Society’s president, John Lee. The society’s board voted to provide funds for iPod audio guides to the Burns and Milton exhibits.

“IMAGINING PARADISE, AN EXHIBIT FOR THE JOHN MILTON QUATERCENTENARY”

Drawing on the rich treasures of the Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton, Rare Books and Special Collections opened an exhibit in December featuring original art, engravings, and illustrated books centered on the English poet's most famous work, *Paradise Lost*. The exhibit, titled “Imagining Paradise, an Exhibit for the John Milton Quatercentenary,” was mounted to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Milton's birth on Dec. 9, 1608.

According to the exhibit curator, Dr. Patrick Scott, “Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* (1667) became one of the most influential, most widely read, and most frequently reprinted of all English books. Unlike earlier epics, Milton's poem told the story not of one nation, but of mankind, and not of individual quest or heroism but of a more universal experience:

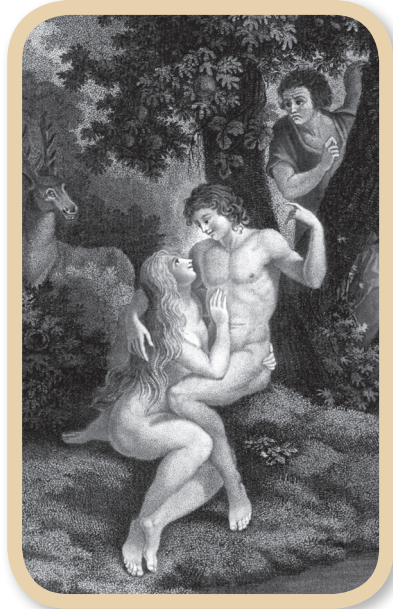
*Of man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden fruit whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world and all our woe,
With loss of Eden . . .*

“In the centuries since Milton's death, in 1674, the poem has drawn responses not only from readers and critics, but also from poets and musicians and artists. Since then many artists and illustrators have produced illustrations or illustrative sequences. Each generation has responded in its own terms, bringing out different aspects of Milton's poem, focusing perhaps on paradise and paradisaic love, or the titanic conflicts of the warring angels, or on Satan as Romantic rebel, as much as on the fall itself.”

This exhibition charted the development of Milton illustration, from the first illustrated edition of *Paradise Lost* (1688), through 18th-century, Romantic, and Victorian illustration, to recent fine-press editions. It included important original drawings and watercolors by Haydon, Richter, Westall, and others as well as engravings by Rowlandson, Fuseli, and Martin and fine Milton editions with illustrations by Blake, Turner, and Doré.

Nearly all the items on display were drawn from the Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton, acquired for the library in 2006 with the leading support of the William L. Richter Family Foundation.

Further information about the materials in the exhibit and about the Wickenheiser Collection is available in Wickenheiser's illustrated catalogue, recently published by the University of South Carolina Press, or online at: www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/britlit/milton/intro.html.



“Adam and Eve” from *Paradise Lost*, Bk IV, by Jean Frederic Schall (Paris, 1792)



Elizabeth Sudduth, head of Rare Books and Special Collections Processing and Services, is shown with her new book, *The G. Ross Roy Collection of Robert Burns: An Illustrated Catalogue* (USC Press, 2009). The book is a guide to the most comprehensive collection of Burns and Burnsiana literature outside of the United Kingdom.



HOLLINGS LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

Progress continues on the construction of the University's Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library. Completion of the library is expected in March 2010.

The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter Spring 2009

The Thomas Cooper Society Newsletter is published twice a year by the society. Correspondence may be sent to the editor at Thomas Cooper Library, Room 417, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, or to nancyhw@mailbox.sc.edu.

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